

Mr. De Villiers joined the British Astronomical Association on the occasion of the total solar eclipse of 1896 August; and kindly reference is made in the Journal of the Association (1898 October) to the help he gave the expedition by his survey of the ground and his determination of the meridian line. This notice of him, which is practically here reproduced, reprints the following extract from the *Cape Argus* of 1898 August 17 :

“Mr. De Villiers was a land surveyor by profession, and after many vicissitudes, which include some years’ membership of the Free State Volksraad, he had acquired wealth and settled down to enjoy a life of cultivated leisure at Sea Point. His hobby was astronomy, and he had lately spent some thousands of pounds on a new observatory in his own grounds, which was about to be fitted with the finest of appliances. He had some taste in art, and was altogether one of the pleasantest of companions and most sociable of men. It was his delight to have his friends about him. He was returning from his canvass as Bond Candidate for Vryburg. A Progressive observed on hearing the sad news to-day : ‘If all the Bondsmen were like him, I would not mind seeing fifty of them in the House.’”

GEORGE WILLIAMS was born at Baroche, in the Bombay Presidency, 1814 May 14. He was the eldest son of the late Colonel Monier Williams, Surveyor-General of that Presidency, and brother of Sir Monier Williams, K.C.I.E., the Boden Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford.

At the age of seventeen he was articled to Mr. Decimus Burton, the well known architect of the entrance gates at Hyde Park Corner, of the Archway opposite, of the Athenæum Club, and other public buildings in the Metropolis. He served his full time of five years with Mr. Burton, and afterwards travelled for a year and a half in Italy and Greece. He devoted much of his time at Athens to drawings and measurements of the noble ruins on the Acropolis and its neighbourhood. Photography was not known in those days, and the student had to collect his materials by his own personal labour, his own careful drawings, his own exact measurements by tape and footrule. His industry was proved by the large number of drawings he brought home with him from Italy and Greece.

On his return to England he entered into partnership with his cousin, Mr. Arthur Williams, who was practising as an architect in Liverpool, and there he made the acquaintance of Mr. Lassell and Mr. Stanistreet, an acquaintance which ripened into a lifelong friendship. The rapidly increasing wealth and importance of Liverpool afforded ample scope for an architect of his acquired taste and education, and he was actively engaged for many years of his professional life in designing and constructing many of the public buildings and churches in that city, and of the residences of the prosperous mercantile men in the suburbs. The entire management of the Princes Park, which had just then

been generously given and dedicated to the public by Mr. Richard Yates, devolved on him.

Still, throughout all this press of business he found his recreation in the telescope and the microscope. He fitted up an astronomical telescope on the roof of his house in the Princes Park, and the small number of his friends who now survive will remember with pleasure the stated evenings at which they all assembled at his house to enjoy the discoveries of the microscope, the specimens on his slides being all prepared and mounted by himself with the greatest skill and nicety.

He found leisure in the summer of 1851 to accompany his friends Lassell and Stanistreet to Sweden to witness the total eclipse of the Sun visible in its totality on July 29, at, amongst other places, Trollhatten in that country. He wrote a full report of the result of his observations on that occasion.

Mr. George Williams' subsequent observations, though continuous, were not given to the public as he might have done had he desired to draw attention to himself. His diffident, retiring nature shrank from appearing in print or from any attempt to court publicity. On quitting his profession in the year 1880 (his wife having predeceased him), he took up his residence with his brother, Mr. C. R. Williams, at Dolmelynlyn, near Dolgelly, where an observatory was expressly erected for him containing a 5-inch telescope by Cooke of York, and where his investigations were sedulously carried out, chiefly connected with the spots in the Sun by day and the organism of the Moon by night. The results, as well as his observations on the transit of *Venus* on 1882 December 6, were from time to time accurately noted, but only occasionally communicated to the local press; and thus the scientific world has lost the benefit of his zeal and knowledge. He married Caroline, daughter of the Rev. Chas. Chauncy, rector of St. Paul's, Walden, Herts. She died in the year 1855. Mr. Williams died 1898 April 7. He was elected a Fellow of this Society, 1865 May 12.

[For the above particulars the Council is indebted to his brother, Mr. C. R. Williams.]

THE REV. ALFRED WRIGLEY was born 1818 January 13, at Netherton, near Huddersfield, Yorkshire. When ten years old he went to Glasgow to commence his medical training, and for five years walked the hospital performing minor operations and obtaining the best possible certificates. At the age of fifteen he returned to England on the death of his father, and after a lapse of three or four years went to St. John's College, Cambridge, and graduated as seventeenth Wrangler in 1841 (Stokes's year). He was ordained and appointed to a position at Addiscombe College, and married in 1842 Maria Jane Worgan, grand-daughter of Dr. Worgan, a well-known musician of the last century. He had one